

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
63.	Planning Commission	—	—	—	—	4
64.	U.P.S.C.	—	—	—	—	1
65.	Deptt. of Legislative	—	—	—	—	1
66.	Deptt. of Legal Affairs	—	—	—	—	1
67.	Deptt. of Official Language	—	—	—	—	1
68.	Deptt. of Animal Husbandry & Dairy	—	—	—	—	1
69.	Deptt. of Indian Medicine System & Homoeopathy	—	—	—	—	1

[English]

Rhino Horns

3167. SHRI K.S. RAYUDU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rhino horns worth thousands of crores of rupees are lying in the forest treasury of Assam;

(b) if so, the approximate sale value thereof;

(c) the reasons for not selling them off and utilise the funds collected thereby for the developmental purposes; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) The State Government of Assam have reported that 1044 pieces of rhino horn weighing 672.581 kg. are deposited in different treasuries of the State.

(b) Trade in rhino horns is prohibited. However, the price of rhino horn is believed to be between Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh per kg. in illegal transactions within the country and upto Rs. 15 lakhs in the international markets.

(c) and (d) Trade in rhino horns is banned in the country under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and internationally under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora (CITES).

[Translation]

Damodar River

3168. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to clean Damodar river and include it under National River Conservation plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Pollution abatement of river Damodar in Bihar and West Bengal has been included under the National River Conservation Plan. Under this component, pollution abatement works in 8 towns of Bihar and 4 towns of West Bengal have been approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 23.37 crores. Town-wise and activity-wise cost of schemes is given in the Statement attached. Preparatory work on the plan has begun.